

Automatic payroll deduction of dues to sole bargaining agent for Houston police

HB 3352 by Woolley (Whitmire)

DIGEST: HB 3352 would have directed the city of Houston to deduct police employee group dues for a police employee group recognized as the sole bargaining agent via automatic payroll deduction from members of the employee group. Automatic payroll deduction for members of other police employee groups could have been authorized by agreement between the chief executive officer of the public employer and the recognized bargaining agent. HB 3352 also would have amended provisions establishing recourse for Houston police officers and fire fighters who were employed by departments with civil service agreements and who were facing disciplinary action.

**GOVERNOR'S
REASON FOR
VETO:**

“House Bill No. 3352 would require automatic payroll deduction for the police employee group that has been recognized as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent under the ‘meet and confer’ process authorized in a municipality with a population of 1.5 million or more (City of Houston). Yet, the bill only permits automatic payroll deduction for members of other police employee groups by agreement between the chief executive officer of the municipality (mayor) and the recognized bargaining agent. This type of approval requirement appears to serve only the interests of the current bargaining agent and undermines the meet and confer process.”

RESPONSE: Rep. Beverly Woolley, the bill’s author, said: “I am disappointed that the governor chose to veto this bill which was based on current local practices of the city of Houston and the Houston Police Department. This bill with Senate amendments passed the House 140 to 0 and passed unanimously on the Senate’s Local and Consent Calendar. It is unfortunate that the governor did not agree with the consensus of the Legislature.”

Sen. John Whitmire, the Senate sponsor, had no comment on the veto.

NOTES: HB 3352 was analyzed in Part Two of the April 23 *Daily Floor Report*.